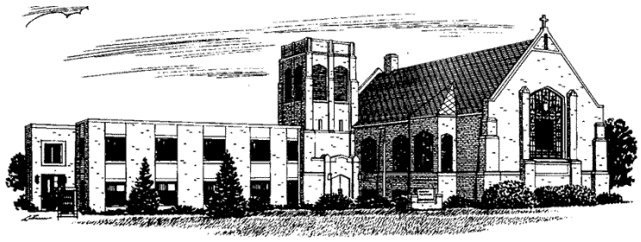


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

July 2014

In case you wondered, and I hope you didn't really have to wonder, I think our youth are pretty awesome. It is a joy to watch them affirm their faith, writing and sharing their faith statements, playing their instruments, preparing to go to WorkCamp, helping with a blood drive, giving blood, reading at worship, and acolyting. Should I go on? And how exciting to hear of their experiences outside of "this place" – traveling to Normandy, France, with the band, serving on synod council, helping with a service project and more.

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life is our vision statement related to our youth. It is the statement we can look to, in order to help measure how it is we are doing in living out our mission of "Joyfully sharing God's love for all."

I love to watch the youth interacting not only with each other but also with the adults in our congregation. How important it is for each of them to know they are noticed, and loved, and valued – not only for what they do but for who they are. The words of encouragement, the brief moments we spend asking about their day and their lives; the support we offer as they head off on a mission trip or the first time they read at worship or venture up front for a children's sermon all on their own. These are not little things but the offering of ourselves as part of the body of Christ with the ability to transform lives. It is God's work and we trust the Holy Spirit will lead us in our efforts.

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Chime Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ruth Harris** is at Royalton Manor, 288 Peace Blvd Street, St. Joseph, **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Serving in the military:

Ed Standen – Charleston, SC
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in July 2014

July 3 - Ellie Hammer
4 – Andrew Huff
5 – Catherine Ravitch
7 - Preston Akers
8 - Elliott de la Foret
9 – Barbara Stelter
11 - Thomas Freemire
12 - Scott Gaspari
14 - Kylie Hammer
15 - Joyce Marquardt
17 - Andrew Gustafson
21 - Marge Teal
23 – Lauren (Olson) Kauffman
25 – John Koehler
26 – Pastor Joan Oleson
28 - Helena Kepp
29 – Ilo Coar

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In July 2014

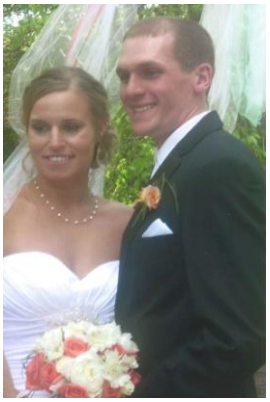
July 3 – Adam and Shavonn Bradley
12 – Rian and Judi Huff
14 – Gus and Wendy Leoni
15 – James and Katherine Nadeau
22 – Keith and Jan Stevens
25 – Brent and Linda Dipert
26 - John and Candy Taylor
27 – Ronald and Catherine Ravitch

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Congratulations!

We extend our best wishes to Phill and Emily (Nickols) Standen upon their marriage May 24 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.



We welcome new member, Mike Harper. Mike joined Saron on June 1.

We ask God's blessings on Brooke Henderson upon her First Communion, June 1.

Congratulations to Colin Ashley and Austin Kamala on their Confirmation, June 8, and Austin's First Communion.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday July 6 –
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday July 13 –
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:1-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday July 20 –
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday July 27 –
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prayer

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which will include lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Flowers for Worship

Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Catch the Buzz! Vacation Bible School is coming!

Vacation Bible School will be held **August 4-7** this year. We will begin each day at 6:00 PM and end by 8:30 PM.

Catch the Buzz! invites children to add their hands, their voices, their minds and their hearts to being a part of God's work in the world. Through Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks, stories and songs, children will learn about malaria and how it is affecting children around the world. They will also have the opportunity to join in the fight to end malaria. But, most importantly, children will learn about how much God loves them and all God's children. They will experience how God works through their hands and the hands of others to make a real difference in the world for God's people. "God's work. Our hands."

Registration will begin June 23. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Scott Gaspari atscottgaspari@outlook.com.

Sunday School Teachers!

We are actively looking for more teachers to fill the ranks at Saron's Sunday School. Depending on how many teachers we have, you will teach once or twice per month.

We are looking for anyone of adult age that is excited to share the Good News with the children of Saron. The foundational teaching of the Bible will allow children to be as excited about Jesus as our adults are!

Contact Scott Gaspari at scottgaspari@outlook.com if you are interested, or have any questions.

Tuesday Morning Beach Study

Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! Bring your travel cup of coffee or tea, a jacket, and your Bible for a gathering on Tuesday mornings at 8:30. We meet at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact Pastor

SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Once again, Saron members and friends can take advantage of the beauty of Lake Michigan as a setting for informal summer worship. On July 16 and August 20 -- both Wednesday nights -- we will gather at Lion's Park Beach for a picnic supper at 6, followed by worship at 7. The church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments, chips, and lemonade. Others are invited to bring a dish to share. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

1st Sunday Book Club

We are taking a break for the summer months and will meet again October 5th to discuss *The End of Your Life Book Club*, by Will Schwalbe. Following are the rest of our reading selections for 2014/2015:

November 2, 2014	*The Signature of All Things: A Novel*, by Elizabeth Gilbert
December 7, 2014	*The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd
February 8, 2015	*The Secret of the Nightingale Palace*, by Dana Sachs
March 1, 2015	*Still Life With Bread Crumbs*, by Anna Quindlen
April 5, 2015	*The Goldfinch*, by Donna Tartt
May 3, 2015	*The Rosie Project*, by Grhaeme Simsion

Enjoy a summer full of good days and good books and come join us in October.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will **NOT** be held in July because of the 4th holiday. We will again meet in August.

Outreach

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen – May 22, 2014

Thank you to Betty Ross, Pastor Joan, Frieda Williams, Richard and Marlene Schalon, Ruth Ball and Mary Alice Brunner for cooking and serving 156 guests at the Soup Kitchen! Cookie bakers this month were Kerrie Hoodlebrink, Deanna Deaton, Krin Jurgensen, Amanda Bradley and Janet Oleson, your hard work is so appreciated.

If you are interested in either working at the Soup Kitchen or baking cookies please contact Jan Stevens at 429-2044. Thank you.

God's Work. Our Hands

On September 7, 2014 Saron will join with nearly 10,000 other ELCA Congregations celebrating "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday!! We will serve our community in ways that share the love of God with all of God's children. In 2013, we helped clean up the City Center Park, in Benton Harbor. Saron will be participating in another community project on September 7! You will have the opportunity to order *"God's Work .Our Hands."* t-shirts, with Saron's name printed on the shirt. Look for more information soon!!

Contact Jan Stevens with your questions.

Used Eye Glass Collection

The Lions of St. Joseph Township would like to thank all of the people of Saron for you contribution of glasses to our global mission to assist people to see better. The collection box is still available for all to continue to put old or no longer needed glasses in. "Remember this is a great way for you house or dwelling to lose a little weight by shedding those unwanted glasses."

Thanks, Keith Stevens

Blood Drive

On June 10, another successful "Michigan Blood Drive" was held at Saron. Thanks to Drew, Colin, Tim, Connor and Austin for helping out with the drive, you all did a great job!

26 people attempted to donate, with 18 able to give blood, What a super turnout. Our next Blood Drive will be in October; hope to see you then!

Thanks, Keith Stevens and Joyce Marquardt
Blood Drive Coordinators

Crop Walk Results -

On May 18 the 35th Blossomland Crop Walk was held,with walkers walking 10K through Benton Harbor and St. Joseph.It was a beautiful day to participate is such a worthwhile event!
Jan Stevens and Steve Bell walked for Saron and Laraine Taylor was our "rocker"! Thanks to Keith Stevens , Brian Culverhouse and Jim Oleson for helping out at Saron's water station.
A huge thank you to all who pledged money - Saron's total collected was $1,045.

Meet Me at the Freezer

Meals are available for anyone to take to someone who might need one. Enjoying a visit and providing a meal is a wonderful way to tell someone that YOU CARE! The meals are in the freezer in Saron's dining room! If you would like to be involved when we cook again, please contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044.

Interested in stories of the ELCA at work?
Check out *http://www.elca.org/living-lutheran/* to read daily conversations about what it means to live Lutheran. **Living Lutheran**, a ministry of the ELCA, includes blogs, videos and member voices.

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will gather on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at LakeHouse by Cravings (old Mansion Grille) for dinner at 6:30 p.m.

TO ALL WOMEN. SAVE THE DATE!

This years women's retreat will be held on Saturday, Oct ober 11, 2014. Be sure to mark your calendars for this fun filled day. If you have any questions, feel free to call Linda Pater at 468-3303. More information will be provided closer to retreat time.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. We like to have something after both early and late services. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Youth

MISSION TRIP UPDATE!

Five of Saron's youth – Tim, Connor, Drew, Austin, and Colin – as well as adult leaders, Ed and Eric, will be in Racine, WI June 22-28 for a week of "Repairing Home and Lives." Pray for their safe travels and an inspirational week. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Thank you for your support! A stockholder meeting will be on Sunday, July 13 at 4 p.m. We will enjoy ice cream, toppings, popcorn, and reflections by the participants.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who *Prefer Electronic Giving*

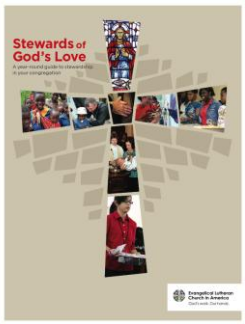
If you know you'll be missing services any time during the year due to travel, living in another location during certain times of the year or other commitments, please consider setting up automatic contributions. Your consistent support is very much appreciated. Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thanks.

Endowment Committee News

The Endowment Committee had the pleasure recently of distributing funds to several organizations/ministries beyond Saron, both locally and through our ELCA church wide organization, as authorized by our constitution. Recipients included the Soup Kitchen ($800), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago ($500), Fresh Start Children's Gardens in Benton Harbor ($1,300), Living Water Ministries, our Synod's camping ministry ($500), as well as 1 well and 2 canals through ELCA Good Gifts ($2,800).

We give thanks to those persons who have made it possible to provide for mission through their gifts. For more information, contact Dave Bailey.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39

OUT: Relationship with our neighbor

July: Stewards of Justice

"We continue our practice of stewardship by looking out to see the many ways that God is calling us to love our neighbors both near and far. Throughout the Bible we hear God's commandment to love God and our neighbor not just with our words, but with our actions. When we share the abundance that God has entrusted to our care with our neighbor, we not only love our neighbor, but God. Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the imprisoned we are doing it Jesus."
www.elca.org/growingstewards, page 28

Saron is a congregation that gives generously through our work at the Soup Kitchen, giving to the CROP walk, tutoring, Meet Me at the Freezer, Fair Trade, supporting the ELCA Good Gifts with our purchases of bees, chicks, pigs and goats, Blood Drives, gifts to Lutheran World Relief, Malaria campaign, **and the list goes on** as we give to our neighbors both near and far**. God's work, our hands.**

Thank You!

Thank you to Lorraine Mikesell who takes such good care of all of Saron's plants. We appreciate your expertise!

Council News

Attendance Record	
05/18/2014	*81*
05/25/2014	*79*
06/01/2014	*106*
06/08/2014	*99*
06/15/2014	

Saron's Council Members – 2014

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Secretary, Learning*
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Steve Bell (429-0239) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Youth*
Connor Ashley – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Frieda Williams – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEEDS HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren or Bill Oleson.

FACEBOOK

Are you a Facebook user? Check out Saron's Facebook page and like us at *www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*. Invite a friend to do the same. News items and pictures are posted regularly

WEBSITE

Saron's website is in the process of being updated. We'll let you know when the new site is ready to be launched.

Lay Assistants for July, 2014

July 6 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Com.Assist: Wendy King
Acolyte:
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Judi Huff
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

July 13 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader Intinction: Denise Cook
Acolytes:
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing; Bruce Huff

July 20 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minster: Sue Rood
Reader/Com. Assist: Dana Riley
Ushers: Dave and Kathie Bradley
Acolyte:
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Karen Johnson
Building Closing: Colleen and Dennis Lundgren

July 27 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Intinction: Frieda Williams
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Acolyte:
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Marilyn Lucy
Building Closing: Steve Bell

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer.
Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

ELCA gives another $1 million for LWR's Typhoon Haiyan Response

Lutheran World Relief and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) announced this week that the ELCA has provided an additional $1 million toward LWR's response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. This gift, made through ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response, follows a $1 million donation from the ELCA in November 2013, doubling the ELCA's support of LWR's typhoon response, and making it the largest contribution LWR has received for Haiyan response.

Found

If you have lost an angel medallion, come claim in the church office. It was placed with the noisy offering.

Graduate Tim Standen receives a blessing from his parents

Thanks to Kathie Bradley for creating our new banners.

Pentecost Processional, complete with new twister banners

Saron is a member of the task force. Ask Jan Stevens or Pastor for more information.

Spring Yard Work with Bill Oleson and Tedd Gorman

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

July 2014

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Vision Statements:

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

JULY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	2 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	3	4 Enjoy the holiday with family Independence Day	5 NO Men's Devotion/Breakfast
6 *4th Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	7 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	8 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 7:00 p.m. Support	CIRCLE 9 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Deborah Dinner at LakeHouse by Cravings Restaurant	10	11	12
13 *5th Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	14 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Newsletter Articles Due	15 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron	16 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Picnic – Lions Park 7:00 p.m. Worship	17	18	19
20 *6th Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	21 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m Saron Council Meeting	22 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	23 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	24	25 Rehearsal	26 Marriage Svc – Huff/Hooper
27 *7th Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	28 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	29 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	30 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	31	June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31